

WI-276
Henry James Messick House
Nanticoke
Private

c. 1890

Located in the center of the river-front community of Nanticoke, the Henry James Messick stands out as one of its most ambitious and distinctive dwellings. Estimated to date to the last decade of the nineteenth century, the imposing mansard-roofed dwelling was designed and built on a traditional center passage/double-pile plan. The blockish house has cut corners that technically give it an octagonal shape and a wraparound porch echoes the octagonal form. Layers of fishscale shingles and turned posts with sawn brackets, and a multiple dormered roof add lively decorative finishes and architectural forms to the massive house. The interior has survived largely unchanged since the time of its construction and a variety of original finishes remain undisturbed. The kitchen is noteworthy for its pressed metal walls and ceiling, and the front parlor and living room have original columned mantels with mirrored overmantels and tiled hearths. Distinguishing the second floor are many original features including grained oak doors that survive with original hinge and lock hardware.

Construction of the house is credited to merchant Henry James Messick (1857-1924). Standing on part of the tract known as "St. Albans," the property was inherited by Henry James and Annie Eliza Messick's two daughters, Vernie L. Messick and Helen Messick Yetter, after his death in 1924. Helen Messick Yetter predeceased her sister in 1936, and her heirs sold their interests to Carl L. and Vernie L. Messick in 1953. The property remained in their hands until 1963, when it was sold out of the family.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Henry James Messick House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-276

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture

2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore

3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance
1870-1930

4. Resource Type(s): Single-family dwelling

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-276

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Henry James Messick House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 20519 Nanticoke Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Nanticoke ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Donald and Donna Shiflet

street & number P. O. Box 118 telephone no.:

city, town Nanticoke state and zip code Maryland 21840

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 63, P.384
liber 1309

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 306

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WI-276

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Henry James Messick house stands at 20519 Nanticoke Road in the center of the village of Nanticoke, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story mansard roofed frame house faces west.

Estimated to date around 1890, the two-and-a-half story, three-bay by three-bay center hall frame house is supported on raised brick foundation with a partially excavated cellar. The four corners of the square-proportioned house are cut on an angle, which gives the house an octagonal shape. The exterior is uniformly sheathed with vinyl siding, and the steeply pitched mansard roof is covered with wood shingles. Internal brick chimneys rise through the roof with one stack retaining its decorative corbelled cap. The house is joined on the lot by a single-story garage/workshop converted from an old carriage house.

The west (main) elevation is a symmetrical three-bay facade with a center entrance and flanking sash windows. The partially glazed late nineteenth century door is decorated by applied ornament, and the doorway is framed by sidelights and a transom. The flanking windows are single-pane sash with small colored panes fixed in the perimeter of the upper window. Each window is trimmed with a molded lintel. The entire first floor is sheltered by a turned post porch featuring a center cross gable covered with fishscale shingles. Victorian sawn brackets are fixed to the upper corners along with a turned spindle screen that stretches between the posts. Also fixed between each pair of posts is a turned baluster handrail. The outside, clipped corners of the house are marked by single-pane sash windows with molded lintels and small colored panes in the upper sash. The second floor is lighted by three evenly spaced single-pane sash windows featuring molded lintels and colored panes in the upper window. The attic level is dominated by a center gable and flanking dormers that align with each window on the first and second floors. The base of the roof is finished with a cove cornice now covered with vinyl as well.

The south side of the house is defined by a center entrance and flanking single-pane sash windows fitted with molded lintels and colored glass panes in the upper sash. The five-panel front door is topped by a single-pane transom. The turned post porch has a center cross gable sheathed with fishscale shingles. A small one-bay section of the porch is enclosed as a laundry room off the kitchen. The second floor is defined by an evenly spaced row of single-pane sash windows with colored panes in the upper windows. The roof is finished in the same manner as the front of the house with a large center gable flanked by dormers.

The rear (east) elevation is an asymmetrical facade with two entrances piercing the first floor. Partially glazed doors are topped by single-pane transoms. The turned post porch extends around the east side and features a center cross gable. A single bay section is enclosed and houses a downstairs bathroom. The second floor and attic levels are detailed in the same fashion as the west and south sides.

(Continued)

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-276

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Located in the center of the river-front community of Nanticoke, the Henry James Messick stands out as one of its most ambitious and distinctive dwellings. Estimated to date to the last decade of the nineteenth century, the imposing mansard-roofed dwelling was designed and built on a traditional center passage/double-pile plan. The blockish house has cut corners that technically give it an octagonal shape and a wraparound porch echoes the octagonal form. Layers of fishscale shingles and turned posts with sawn brackets, and a multiple dormered roof add lively decorative finishes and architectural forms to the massive house. The interior has survived largely unchanged since the time of its construction and a variety of original finishes remain undisturbed. The kitchen is noteworthy for its pressed metal walls and ceiling, and the front parlor and living room have original columned mantels with mirrored overmantels and tiled hearths. Distinguishing the second floor are many original features including grained oak doors that survive with original hinge and lock hardware.

Construction of the house is credited to merchant Henry James Messick (1857-1924). Standing on part of the tract known as "St. Albans," the property was inherited by Henry James and Annie Eliza Messick's two daughters, Vernie L. Messick and Helen Messick Yetter, after his death in 1924. Helen Messick Yetter predeceased her sister in 1936, and her heirs sold their interests to Carl L. and Vernie L. Messick in 1953.⁽¹⁾ The property remained in their hands until 1963, when it was sold out of the family.⁽²⁾

The house qualifies for listing in *Category A*, which identifies properties of high architectural and/or historical merit.

1 Wicomico County Land Record, JWTS 556/352, 3/12/1963, Wicomico County Courthouse.

2 *Ibid.*

Survey No. WI-276

PS-2746

7.1 DESCRIPTION

Henry James Messick House, WI-276
20519 Nanticoke Road
Nanticoke, Maryland

The north side is a three-bay elevation with a center entrance and flanking single pane sash windows with colored panes in the upper sash and molded lintels. The second floor and attic follow with the same finishes as the other three sides.

The interior has survived largely intact with over 95 percent of its original late nineteenth century finishes undisturbed. The center hall is visually divided with a plastered segmental arched opening separating a front vestibule from the main stairhall. A squarish newel post with a ball finial anchors a closed stringer staircase with turned balusters and a molded handrail. A wide double door opening separates the hall from the parlor, which is distinguished by a recessed niche in the east end that contains a columned mantel with a mirrored overmantel. The mahogany veneered mantel has Corinthian columns that flank a tile fireplace and a beveled mirror overmantel.

On the opposite side of the hall a living room is finished in similar fashion with an oak veneered columned mantelpiece incorporating a tiled hearth and a mirrored overmantel.

Located in the southeast corner of the first floor plan is the kitchen, which is finished with beaded board wainscoting around the perimeter of the room and pressed metal walls and ceiling. A fleur-de-lis motif is used in the pressed metal pattern. Rising between the kitchen and the living room is an enclosed stair that also provides access to the partially excavated cellar.

The dining room is located in the northeast corner of the house. A paint decorated slate mantel is fixed to the inside fireplace wall. Turned columns rise on each side of a tile fireplace. The frieze is embellished with a stylized floral decoration incised into the stone. The door and window openings are framed by bulls-eye block surrounds, and a pair of double glazed doors open into the hall. There is a butler's pass through between the dining room and the kitchen.

The second floor is divided into four principal rooms with a bathroom fixed between the back (east) bedrooms. Shallow profile five-panel doors, topped by movable single-pane transoms and framed by bulls-eye block surrounds, open into the various rooms. Original hinge and lock hardware remain on many of the doors. The back bathroom is finished with beaded board wainscoting. Several of the doors have original oak graining.

The attic is finished as well with several oak grained doors retaining original late nineteenth century hinge and lock hardware.

WI-276
Henry James Messick House
20519 Nanticoke Road
Nanticoke
Chain of title

Map 63, Parcel 384

1309/306 Anthony Cappello
Karen J. Cappello

to

10/2/1992 Donald A. Shiflet
Donna F. Shiflet
Faye Ellen Oden

Designated as "Area 1.852 acres, part of St. Albans,
Nanticoke Point, May 3, 1866"

MSB 1180/512 Moon Ja Catellier, Arlington County, Virginia

to

5/5/1989 Anthony Cappello
Karen J. Cappello

AS 1024/584 First American Mortgage Company

to

11/12/1984 Moon Ja Catellier

2 ½ acres

WI-276
Henry James Messick House
Nanticoke
Chain of title continued

Page 2

AS 1015/262

Stanley Rodbell, Assignee

to

First American Mortgage Company

AS 925/736

George B. Edge
Margaret e. Edge

to

3/23/1976

Margaret E. Edge
James B. Edge

JWTS 556/352

Carl L. Messick
Vernie L. Messick

to

3/12/1963

George B. Edge
Margaret E. Edge, Prince Georges County, MD

2 ½ acres being the residence property owned and occupied by Henry James Messick also known as H. James Messick at the time of his death, the said Henry James Messick having died, testate, on 11/6/1924, a widower leaving him as his only two heirs at law two daughters Vernie L. Messick, and Helen Messick Yetter, title to said property passed by inheritance from

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Page 3

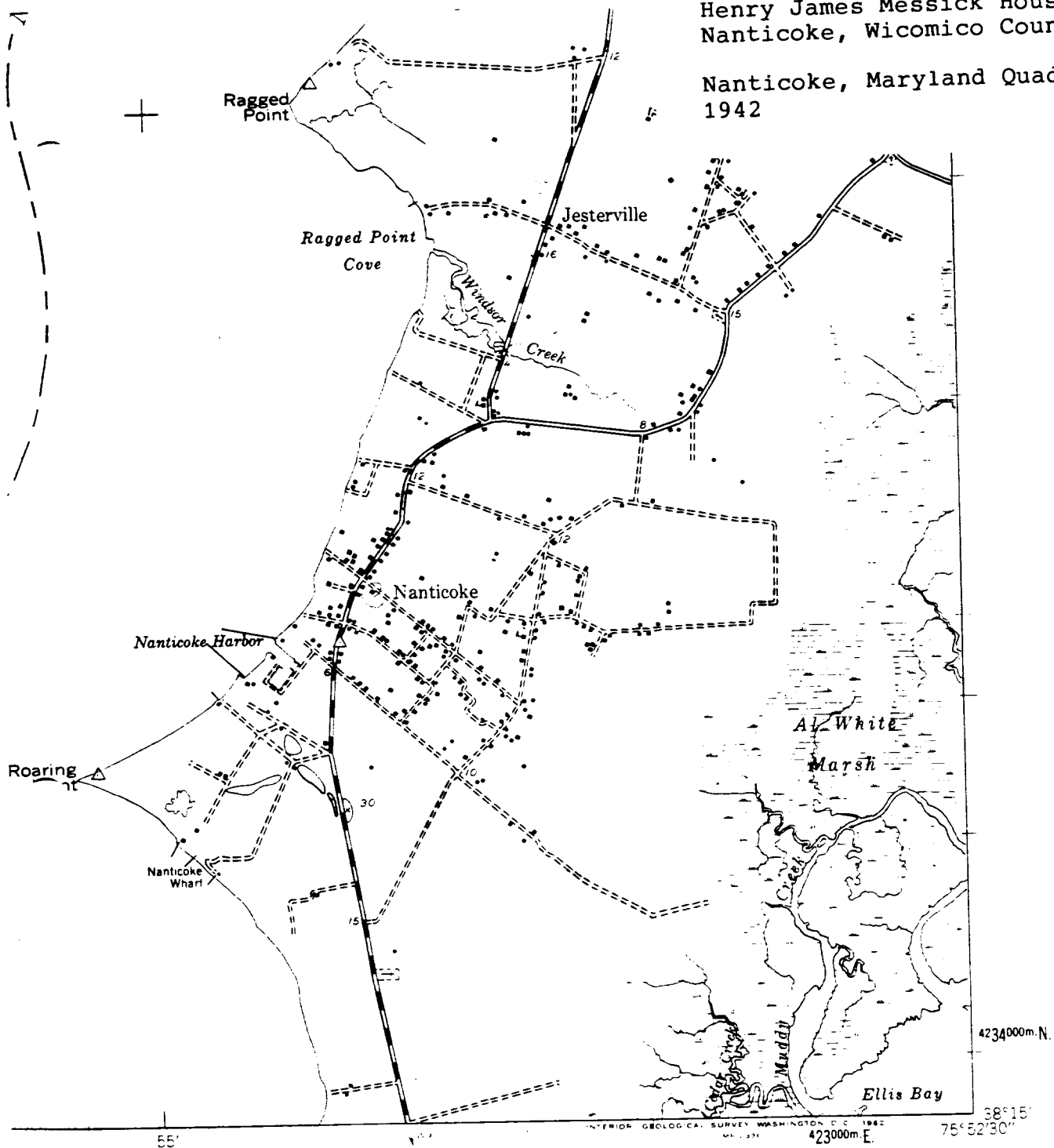
Henry James Messick House
Nanticoke

Chain of title continued

their said father and the said Helen Messick Yetter having died intestate, a widow, 12/28/1936, and her undivided interest in said property passed by inheritance unto her son, James Raymond Yetter, and her daughter, Mary Jane Yetter Day, her only heirs at law, and the said heirs of the Helen Messick Yetter, together with their perspective spouses, having conveyed interest in said property to Carl L. Messick and Vernie L. Messick, 10/27/1953, JWTS 352/45

WI-276
Henry James Messick House
Nanticoke, Wicomico County, Maryland

Nanticoke, Maryland Quadrangle
1942



0 MILE
1000 FEET
METERS

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Medium duty

Light duty

Unimproved dirt

State Route



NANTICOKE, MD.

SW/4 NANTICOKE 15' QUADRANGLE

N3815-W7552.5/7.5

1942



W1-276

Henry James Messing House
Nantuxet, Nantuxet Co., Ill.

Summer + vacation

9/90, Pine Township, Pittsburgh
N. Co. Ill. 1000 ft. on T. 1. 1. 1.



WI-276

HENRY JAMES MESSICK HOUSE

NANTUCKET, NICHOLSON CO., N.D.

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

5/96, PAUL TOWN, PHOTOGRAPHED BY

NO. 6 / N.D. HISTORICAL TRUST





VI-27.

Henry James Mass - 1873

NANTUCKET, NANTUCKET CO., MD.

DINING ROOM

5/96, PAUL TOWNE, PHOTOGRAPH

NET, 1 MD. 1873-1874









W1-270

Henry James Messier House
Winchester, Wayne Co. MD

Kittling

5/90, Paul Fennell, Philadelphia

Ref. MD 1855-1860 = Fennell